(iii) Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya

(iv) Total Literacy Campaign

(v) Post Literacy Programme

(vi) Continuing Education Programme.

(b) As per the available information, the drop-out rates at primary level have been declining steadily from 39.03% in 2001-02 to 31.36% in 2003-04. The drop-out rate for girls during the same period has shown a more encouraging reduction at 11.64%. In respect of the literacy programmes, according to the information available, 39.74 lakh persons have been made literate during 2004-05.

(c) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, additional incentives like free textbooks for SC/ST children and for all girls are given. Cooked mid-day meal is being provided to children studying at primary stage in Government schools, Government aided schools, schools run by local bodies, Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative & Innovative Education (AIE) centres under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Under the scheme of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, special residential schools are being set up for the girl child belonging to SC, ST, Other Backward Castes and Minorities in educationally backward blocks having low female literacy. Under the National Literacy Mission, nearly 35% of the beneficiaries belong to the SC/ST community and nearly 60% of the total beneficiaries are women.

Free text books to students

†1361. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide free text books to the students of Class-I to VIll under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) to what extent this scheme has been successful; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to make it popular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Free textbooks are provided to all girls as well as children belonging

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes as primary and upper primary level under the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) within an upper ceiling of Rs. 150/- per child, except where State Governments have their own schemes. The scheme of SSA is being implemented in all States & Union Territories and has provided free textbooks to 5.35 crore eligible children in 2005-06.

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research at Punjab

1362. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved establishment of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research in Punjab;

(b) whether the location has been identified to set up the Institute;

(c) the total cost of the project; and

(d) by when the project is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Government has identified Punjab for the establishment of the third Indian Institute of Science Education and Research in the country.

(b) The Government of Punjab have identified 200 acres of land in SAS Nagar near Chandigarh.

(c) The total cost of the Project is estimated to be Rs. 500 crores excluding the cost of the land.

(d) The Project would be executed in the 11th Five Year Plan.

Caveat of AICTE to Students

1363. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the AICTE had cautioned students regarding some courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;